AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell, comprising:

a first stack having a plurality of unit cells;

a second stack having a plurality of unit cells, the second stack being separate from the first stack,

wherein each of said plurality of unit cells of the first and second stacks has a membrane electrode assembly including an anode, a cathode, and a solid polymer electrolyte membrane interposed between said anode and said cathode, wherein the first stack and the second stack have reactant gas passages and coolant passages defined at least partly therein and the reactant gas passages and the coolant passages are connected in series with each other across said plurality of unit cells for supplying or circulating one or more reactant gases and a coolant to said first and second stacks;

a fuel gas outlet/inlet passage connecting a fuel gas passage from the first stack with a fuel gas passage from the second stack for passing a fuel gas therethrough; and

a fuel gas adjusting mechanism connected to said fuel gas outlet/inlet passage for controlling the flow rate and direction of said fuel gas,

wherein the first stack and the second stack generate electric power simultaneously in use and are electrically connected in series.

2. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising:

an oxygen-containing gas outlet/inlet passage connecting an oxygen-containing gas passage from the first stack with an oxygen-containing gas passage from the second stack for passing an oxygen-containing gas therethrough; and

an oxygen-containing gas adjusting mechanism connected to said oxygen-containing gas outlet/inlet passage for controlling the flow rate and direction of said oxygen-containing gas.

3. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell according to claim 2, further comprising:

a coolant outlet/inlet passage connecting one of said coolant passages from the first stack to one of said coolant passages from the second stack, for passing a coolant therethrough; and

a coolant adjusting mechanism connected to said coolant outlet/inlet passage for controlling the flow rate and direction of said coolant.

4. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising:

a coolant outlet/inlet passage connecting one of said coolant passages from the first stack to one of said coolant passages from the second stack, for passing a coolant therethrough; and

a coolant adjusting mechanism connected to said coolant outlet/inlet passage for controlling the flow rate and direction of said coolant.

5. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said plurality of unit cells of said first and second stacks are juxtaposed.

6. (Withdrawn) A method of controlling a fuel cell including a first stack and a separate second stack, each stack having a plurality of unit cells, each of said plurality of unit cells having a membrane electrode assembly including an anode, a cathode, and a solid polymer electrolyte membrane interposed between said anode and said cathode, said first and second stacks having reactant gas passages and coolant passages defined at least partly therein and connected in series with each other across said unit cells for supplying or circulating one or more reactant gases and a coolant to said first and second stacks, said method comprising the step of:

passing a fuel gas and an oxygen-containing gas in opposite directions through said reactant passages connected in series with each other,

controlling the fuel gas flowing through a fuel gas outlet/inlet passage connecting a fuel gas passage from the first stack with a fuel gas passage from the second stack, and

adjusting the temperatures and relative humidities of said first and second stacks with a fuel gas adjusting mechanism.

7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

controlling an oxygen-containing gas flowing through an oxygen-containing gas outlet/inlet passage connecting an oxygen-containing gas passage from the first stack with an oxygen-containing gas passage from the second stack, and further adjusting the temperatures and relative humidities of said first and second stacks with an oxygen-containing gas adjusting

mechanism.

8. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

controlling a coolant that is one of supplied to and discharged from a coolant outlet/inlet passage connecting with said coolant passages from the first and second stacks, and further adjusting the temperatures and relative humidities of said first and second stacks with a coolant adjusting mechanism.

9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

controlling a coolant that is one of supplied to and discharged from a coolant outlet/inlet passage connecting with said coolant passages from the first and second stacks, and further adjusting the temperatures and relative humidities of said first and second stacks with a coolant adjusting mechanism.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

controlling said reactant gases and said coolant to operate unit cells into which said coolant is initially introduced at a startup time of said first and second stacks.

11. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell, comprising:

a first stack having a plurality of unit cells;

a second stack having a plurality of unit cells, the second stack being separate from the first stack,

wherein each of said plurality of unit cells of the first and second stacks has a membrane electrode assembly including an anode, a cathode, and a solid polymer electrolyte membrane interposed between said anode and said cathode, said first and second stacks have reactant gas passages and coolant passages defined at least partly therein and the reactant gas passages and the coolant passages are connected in series with each other across said unit cells for supplying or circulating one or more reactant gases and a coolant to said first and second stacks;

an oxygen-containing gas outlet/inlet passage connecting an oxygen-containing gas passage from the first stack with an oxygen-containing gas passage from the second stack, for passing an oxygen-containing gas therethrough; and

an oxygen-containing gas adjusting mechanism connected to said oxygen-containing gas

outlet/inlet passage for controlling the flow rate and direction of said oxygen-containing gas.

12. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell, comprising:

a first stack having a plurality of unit cells;

a second stack having a plurality of unit cells, the second stack being separate from the first stack,

wherein each of said plurality of unit cells of the first and second stacks has a membrane electrode assembly including an anode, a cathode, and a solid polymer electrolyte membrane interposed between said anode and said cathode, said first and second stacks have reactant gas passages and coolant passages defined at least partly therein and the reactant gas passages and coolant passages are connected in series with each other across said unit cells for supplying or circulating one or more reactant gases and a coolant to said first and second stacks;

a coolant outlet/inlet passage connecting with said coolant passages from the first and second stacks, for passing a coolant therethrough; and

a coolant adjusting mechanism for controlling the temperature and flow rate of a coolant.

13. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell according to claim 11, wherein said oxygen-containing gas adjusting mechanism controls the temperature, relative humidity of the oxygen-containing gas.